

PRELIMINARY DRAFT

TEXAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
Government Code  
Chapter 550  
8/18/22

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1 CHAPTER 550. HUMAN SERVICES AND OTHER SOCIAL SERVICES PROVIDED  
2 THROUGH FAITH- AND COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS

3 SUBCHAPTER A. GENERAL PROVISIONS

4 Revised Law

5 Sec. 550.0001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

6 (1) "Community-based initiative" includes a social,  
7 health, human services, or volunteer income tax assistance  
8 initiative a community-based organization operates.

9 (2) "Community-based organization" means a nonprofit  
10 corporation or association that is located in close proximity to  
11 the population the organization serves.

12 (3) "Faith-based initiative" means a social, health,  
13 or human services initiative a faith-based organization operates.

14 (4) "Faith-based organization" means a nonprofit  
15 corporation or association that:

16 (A) operates through a religious or  
17 denominational organization, including an organization that is:

18 (i) operated for a religious, educational,  
19 or charitable purpose; and

20 (ii) operated, supervised, or controlled,  
21 wholly or partly, by or in connection with a religious  
22 organization; or

23 (B) clearly demonstrates through the  
24 organization's mission statement, policies, or practices that the  
25 organization is guided or motivated by religion.

26 (5) "Interagency coordinating group" means the  
27 interagency coordinating group for faith- and community-based  
28 initiatives established under Section 550.0054.

29 (6) "State Commission on National and Community  
30 Service" means the entity used as authorized by 42 U.S.C. Section  
31 12638(a) to carry out a state commission's duties under the  
32 National and Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. Section 12501  
33 et seq.). (Gov. Code, Sec. 535.001; New.)

1 Source Law

2 Sec. 535.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

3 (1) "Community-based initiative" includes  
4 a social, health, human services, or volunteer income  
5 tax assistance initiative operated by a  
6 community-based organization.

7 (2) "Community-based organization" means  
8 a nonprofit corporation or association that is located  
9 in close proximity to the population the organization  
10 serves.

11 (3) "Faith-based initiative" means a  
12 social, health, or human services initiative operated  
13 by a faith-based organization.

14 (4) "Faith-based organization" means a  
15 nonprofit corporation or association that:

16 (A) is operated through a religious  
17 or denominational organization, including an  
18 organization that is operated for religious,  
19 educational, or charitable purposes and that is  
20 operated, supervised, or controlled, wholly or partly,  
21 by or in connection with a religious organization; or

22 (B) clearly demonstrates through the  
23 organization's mission statement, policies, or  
24 practices that the organization is guided or motivated  
25 by religion.

26 (5) "State Commission on National and  
27 Community Service" means the entity used as authorized  
28 by 42 U.S.C. Section 12638(a) to carry out the duties  
29 of a state commission under the National and Community  
30 Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. Section 12501 et seq.).

31 Revisor's Note

32 The definition of "interagency coordinating  
33 group" is added to the revised law for drafting  
34 convenience and to eliminate frequent, unnecessary  
35 repetition of the substance of the definition.

36 Revised Law

37 Sec. 550.0002. PURPOSE OF CHAPTER. The purpose of this  
38 chapter is to strengthen the capacity of faith- and community-based  
39 organizations and forge stronger partnerships between those  
40 organizations and state government for the legitimate public  
41 purpose of providing charitable and social services to persons in  
42 this state. (Gov. Code, Sec. 535.002.)

43 Source Law

44 Sec. 535.002. PURPOSE. The purpose of this  
45 chapter is to strengthen the capacity of faith- and  
46 community-based organizations and to forge stronger  
47 partnerships between those organizations and state  
48 government for the legitimate public purpose of  
49 providing charitable and social services to persons in  
50 this state.

1 Revised Law

2 Sec. 550.0003. CONSTRUCTION OF CHAPTER. This chapter may  
3 not be construed to:

4 (1) exempt a faith- or community-based organization  
5 from any applicable state or federal law; or

6 (2) be an endorsement or sponsorship by this state of a  
7 faith-based organization's religious character, expression,  
8 beliefs, doctrines, or practices. (Gov. Code, Sec. 535.003.)

9 Source Law

10 Sec. 535.003. CONSTRUCTION. This chapter may  
11 not be construed to:

12 (1) exempt a faith- or community-based  
13 organization from any applicable state or federal law;  
14 or

15 (2) be an endorsement or sponsorship by  
16 this state of the religious character, expression,  
17 beliefs, doctrines, or practices of a faith-based  
18 organization.

19 Revised Law

20 Sec. 550.0004. CONSISTENT APPLICATION WITH FEDERAL LAW. A  
21 power authorized or duty imposed under this chapter must be  
22 performed in a manner consistent with 42 U.S.C. Section 604a. (Gov.  
23 Code, Sec. 535.004.)

24 Source Law

25 Sec. 535.004. APPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN FEDERAL  
26 LAW. A power authorized or duty imposed under this  
27 chapter must be performed in a manner that is  
28 consistent with 42 U.S.C. Section 604a.

29 SUBCHAPTER B. GOVERNMENTAL LIAISONS FOR FAITH- AND COMMUNITY-BASED  
30 ORGANIZATIONS

31 Revised Law

32 Sec. 550.0051. DEFINITION. In this subchapter, "council"  
33 means the Texas Nonprofit Council. (New.)

34 Revisor's Note

35 The definition of "council" is added to the  
36 revised law for drafting convenience and to eliminate  
37 frequent, unnecessary repetition of the substance of  
38 the definition.

Revised Law

1  
2           Sec. 550.0052. DESIGNATION OF FAITH- AND COMMUNITY-BASED  
3 LIAISONS. (a) The executive commissioner, in consultation with  
4 the governor, shall designate one employee from the commission and  
5 from each health and human services agency to serve as a liaison for  
6 faith- and community-based organizations.

7           (b) The chief administrative officer of each of the  
8 following state agencies, in consultation with the governor, shall  
9 designate one employee from the agency to serve as a liaison for  
10 faith- and community-based organizations:

- 11           (1) the Department of Agriculture;
- 12           (2) the Department of Information Resources;
- 13           (3) the Department of Public Safety;
- 14           (4) the office of the attorney general;
- 15           (5) the office of the comptroller;
- 16           (6) the office of the governor;
- 17           (7) the office of the secretary of state;
- 18           (8) the Office of State-Federal Relations;
- 19           (9) the Public Utility Commission of Texas;
- 20           (10) the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality;
- 21           (11) the Texas Department of Criminal Justice;
- 22           (12) the Texas Department of Housing and Community  
23 Affairs;
- 24           (13) the Texas Department of Insurance;
- 25           (14) the Texas Juvenile Justice Department;
- 26           (15) the Texas Veterans Commission;
- 27           (16) the Texas Workforce Commission; and
- 28           (17) other state agencies as the governor determines.

29           (c) The commissioner of higher education, in consultation  
30 with the presiding officer of the interagency coordinating group,  
31 shall designate one employee from an institution of higher  
32 education, as defined by Section 61.003, Education Code, to serve  
33 as a liaison for faith- and community-based organizations. (Gov.  
34 Code, Sec. 535.051.)

1 Source Law

2 Sec. 535.051. DESIGNATION OF FAITH- AND  
3 COMMUNITY-BASED LIAISONS. (a) The executive  
4 commissioner, in consultation with the governor, shall  
5 designate one employee from the commission and from  
6 each health and human services agency to serve as a  
7 liaison for faith- and community-based organizations.

8 (b) The chief administrative officer of each of  
9 the following state agencies, in consultation with the  
10 governor, shall designate one employee from the agency  
11 to serve as a liaison for faith- and community-based  
12 organizations:

- 13 (1) the Texas Commission on Environmental  
14 Quality;  
15 (2) the Texas Department of Criminal  
16 Justice;  
17 (3) the Texas Department of Housing and  
18 Community Affairs;  
19 (4) the Texas Juvenile Justice Department;  
20 (5) the Texas Veterans Commission;  
21 (6) the Texas Workforce Commission;  
22 (7) the office of the governor;  
23 (8) the Department of Public Safety;  
24 (9) the Texas Department of Insurance;  
25 (10) the Public Utility Commission of  
26 Texas;  
27 (11) the office of the attorney general;  
28 (12) the Department of Agriculture;  
29 (13) the office of the comptroller;  
30 (14) the Department of Information  
31 Resources;  
32 (15) the Office of State-Federal  
33 Relations;  
34 (16) the office of the secretary of state;  
35 and  
36 (17) other state agencies as determined by  
37 the governor.

38 (c) The commissioner of higher education, in  
39 consultation with the presiding officer of the  
40 interagency coordinating group, shall designate one  
41 employee from an institution of higher education, as  
42 that term is defined under Section 61.003, Education  
43 Code, to serve as a liaison for faith- and  
44 community-based organizations.

45 Revised Law

46 Sec. 550.0053. GENERAL POWERS AND DUTIES OF LIAISONS. (a)  
47 A faith- and community-based liaison designated under Section  
48 550.0052 shall:

49 (1) identify and remove unnecessary barriers to  
50 partnerships between the state agency the liaison represents and  
51 faith- and community-based organizations;

52 (2) provide any necessary information and training for  
53 employees of the represented state agency regarding equal  
54 opportunity standards for faith- and community-based organizations  
55 seeking to partner with state government;

1 (3) facilitate the identification of practices with  
2 demonstrated effectiveness for faith- and community-based  
3 organizations that partner with the represented state agency;

4 (4) work with the appropriate departments and programs  
5 of the represented state agency to conduct outreach efforts to  
6 inform and welcome faith- and community-based organizations that  
7 have not traditionally formed partnerships with the agency;

8 (5) coordinate all efforts with the governor's office  
9 of faith- and community-based initiatives and provide any requested  
10 information, support, and assistance to that office to the extent  
11 permitted by law and as feasible; and

12 (6) attend conferences sponsored by federal agencies  
13 and offices and other relevant entities to become and remain  
14 informed of issues and developments regarding faith- and  
15 community-based initiatives.

16 (b) A designated faith- and community-based liaison may  
17 coordinate and interact with statewide organizations that  
18 represent faith- or community-based organizations as necessary to  
19 accomplish the purposes of this subchapter and Subchapters A and C.  
20 (Gov. Code, Sec. 535.052.)

21 Source Law

22 Sec. 535.052. GENERAL DUTIES OF LIAISONS. (a)  
23 A faith- and community-based liaison designated under  
24 Section 535.051 shall:

25 (1) identify and remove unnecessary  
26 barriers to partnerships between the state agency the  
27 liaison represents and faith- and community-based  
28 organizations;

29 (2) provide information and training, if  
30 necessary, for employees of the state agency the  
31 liaison represents regarding equal opportunity  
32 standards for faith- and community-based  
33 organizations seeking to partner with state  
34 government;

35 (3) facilitate the identification of  
36 practices with demonstrated effectiveness for faith-  
37 and community-based organizations that partner with  
38 the state agency the liaison represents;

39 (4) work with the appropriate departments  
40 and programs of the state agency the liaison  
41 represents to conduct outreach efforts to inform and  
42 welcome faith- and community-based organizations that  
43 have not traditionally formed partnerships with the  
44 agency;

45 (5) coordinate all efforts with the  
46 governor's office of faith-based and community

1 initiatives and provide information, support, and  
2 assistance to that office as requested to the extent  
3 permitted by law and as feasible; and

4 (6) attend conferences sponsored by  
5 federal agencies and offices and other relevant  
6 entities to become and remain informed of issues and  
7 developments regarding faith- and community-based  
8 initiatives.

9 (b) A faith- and community-based liaison  
10 designated under Section 535.051 may coordinate and  
11 interact with statewide organizations that represent  
12 faith- or community-based organizations as necessary  
13 to accomplish the purposes of this chapter.

14 Revisor's Note

15 Section 535.052(b), Government Code, refers to a  
16 faith- and community-based liaison coordinating and  
17 interacting as necessary to accomplish the purposes of  
18 "this chapter," meaning Chapter 535, Government Code.  
19 The provisions of Chapter 535 are revised as  
20 Subchapters A, B, and C of this chapter, and the  
21 revised law is drafted accordingly.

22 Revised Law

23 Sec. 550.0054. INTERAGENCY COORDINATING GROUP. (a) The  
24 interagency coordinating group for faith- and community-based  
25 initiatives is composed of:

26 (1) each faith- and community-based liaison  
27 designated under Section 550.0052; and

28 (2) a liaison from the State Commission on National  
29 and Community Service.

30 (b) Service on the interagency coordinating group is an  
31 additional duty of the office or position held by each liaison  
32 designated under Section 550.0052(b).

33 (c) The liaison from the State Commission on National and  
34 Community Service is the presiding officer of the interagency  
35 coordinating group. If the State Commission on National and  
36 Community Service is abolished, the liaison from the office of the  
37 governor is the presiding officer of the group.

38 (d) The state agencies described by Section 550.0052(b)  
39 shall provide administrative support for the interagency  
40 coordinating group as coordinated by the presiding officer. (Gov.

1 Code, Secs. 535.053(a), (a-1), (b).)

2 Source Law

3 Sec. 535.053. INTERAGENCY COORDINATING GROUP.  
4 (a) The interagency coordinating group for faith- and  
5 community-based initiatives is composed of each faith-  
6 and community-based liaison designated under Section  
7 535.051 and a liaison from the State Commission on  
8 National and Community Service.

9 (a-1) Service on the interagency coordinating  
10 group is an additional duty of the office or position  
11 held by each person designated as a liaison under  
12 Section 535.051(b). The state agencies described by  
13 Section 535.051(b) shall provide administrative  
14 support for the interagency coordinating group as  
15 coordinated by the presiding officer.

16 (b) The liaison from the State Commission on  
17 National and Community Service is the presiding  
18 officer of the interagency coordinating group. If the  
19 State Commission on National and Community Service is  
20 abolished, the liaison from the governor's office is  
21 the presiding officer of the interagency coordinating  
22 group.

23 Revised Law

24 Sec. 550.0055. DUTIES OF INTERAGENCY COORDINATING  
25 GROUP. The interagency coordinating group shall:

26 (1) meet periodically at the call of the presiding  
27 officer;

28 (2) work across state agencies and with the State  
29 Commission on National and Community Service to facilitate the  
30 removal of unnecessary interagency barriers to partnerships  
31 between state agencies and faith- and community-based  
32 organizations; and

33 (3) operate in a manner that promotes effective  
34 partnerships between those agencies and organizations to serve  
35 residents of this state who need assistance. (Gov. Code, Sec.  
36 535.053(c).)

37 Source Law

38 (c) The interagency coordinating group shall:

39 (1) meet periodically at the call of the  
40 presiding officer;

41 (2) work across state agencies and with  
42 the State Commission on National and Community Service  
43 to facilitate the removal of unnecessary interagency  
44 barriers to partnerships between state agencies and  
45 faith- and community-based organizations; and

46 (3) operate in a manner that promotes  
47 effective partnerships between those agencies and  
48 organizations to serve residents of this state who  
49 need assistance.

1 Revised Law

2 Sec. 550.0056. INTERAGENCY COORDINATING GROUP ANNUAL  
3 REPORT. Not later than December 1 of each year, the interagency  
4 coordinating group shall submit to the legislature a report  
5 describing in detail the activities, goals, and progress of the  
6 group. The report must be made available to the public on the  
7 office of the governor's Internet website. (Gov. Code, Sec.  
8 535.054.)

9 Source Law

10 Sec. 535.054. REPORT. (a) Not later than  
11 December 1 of each year, the interagency coordinating  
12 group shall submit a report to the legislature that  
13 describes in detail the activities, goals, and  
14 progress of the interagency coordinating group.

15 (b) The report made under Subsection (a) must be  
16 made available to the public through posting on the  
17 office of the governor's Internet website.

18 Revised Law

19 Sec. 550.0057. TEXAS NONPROFIT COUNCIL. (a) The Texas  
20 Nonprofit Council is established to help direct the interagency  
21 coordinating group in carrying out the group's duties under this  
22 subchapter.

23 (b) The governor, in consultation with the presiding  
24 officer of the interagency coordinating group, shall appoint as  
25 council members two representatives from each of the following  
26 groups and entities to represent each group's and entity's  
27 appropriate sector:

- 28 (1) community-based groups;  
29 (2) consultants to nonprofit corporations;  
30 (3) faith-based groups, at least one of which must be a  
31 statewide interfaith group;  
32 (4) local governments;  
33 (5) statewide associations of nonprofit  
34 organizations; and  
35 (6) statewide nonprofit organizations.

36 (c) A council member serves a three-year term expiring  
37 October 1. A council member may not serve more than two consecutive

1 terms.

2 (d) The council shall:

3 (1) elect a presiding officer or presiding officers  
4 and a secretary from among the council members; and

5 (2) assist the executive commissioner in identifying  
6 an individual to fill a vacancy on the council.

7 (e) The state agencies described by Section 550.0052(b)  
8 shall provide administrative support to the council as coordinated  
9 by the presiding officer of the interagency coordinating group.

10 (f) Chapter 2110 does not apply to the council. (Gov. Code,  
11 Secs. 535.055(a), (b), (c-1), (c-2), (e).)

12 Source Law

13 Sec. 535.055. TEXAS NONPROFIT COUNCIL. (a) The  
14 Texas Nonprofit Council is established to help direct  
15 the interagency coordinating group in carrying out the  
16 group's duties under this section. The state agencies  
17 of the interagency coordinating group described by  
18 Section 535.051(b) shall provide administrative  
19 support to the council as coordinated by the presiding  
20 officer of the interagency coordinating group.

21 (b) The governor, in consultation with the  
22 presiding officer of the interagency coordinating  
23 group, shall appoint as members of the council two  
24 representatives from each of the following groups and  
25 entities to represent each group's and entity's  
26 appropriate sector:

- 27 (1) statewide nonprofit organizations;  
28 (2) local governments;  
29 (3) faith-based groups, at least one of  
30 which must be a statewide interfaith group;  
31 (4) community-based groups;  
32 (5) consultants to nonprofit  
33 corporations; and  
34 (6) statewide associations of nonprofit  
35 organizations.

36 (c-1) The council shall elect a chair or chairs  
37 and secretary from among its members and shall assist  
38 the executive commissioner in identifying individuals  
39 to fill vacant council positions that arise.

40 (c-2) Council members serve three-year terms.  
41 The terms expire on October 1 of every third year. A  
42 council member shall serve a maximum of two  
43 consecutive terms.

44 (e) Chapter 2110 does not apply to the Texas  
45 Nonprofit Council.

46 Revisor's Note

47 Section 535.055(a), Government Code, refers to  
48 the interagency coordinating group's duties under  
49 "this section," meaning Section 535.055. The

1 provisions of Section 535.055 are revised in this  
2 subchapter, and the revised law is drafted  
3 accordingly.

4 Revised Law

5 Sec. 550.0058. DUTIES OF TEXAS NONPROFIT COUNCIL. The  
6 council, in coordination with the interagency coordinating group,  
7 shall:

8 (1) make recommendations for improving contracting  
9 relationships between state agencies and faith- and  
10 community-based organizations;

11 (2) develop best practices for cooperating and  
12 collaborating with faith- and community-based organizations; and

13 (3) identify and address:

14 (A) duplication of services provided by this  
15 state and faith- and community-based organizations; and

16 (B) gaps in state services that faith- and  
17 community-based organizations could fill. (Gov. Code, Sec.  
18 535.055(c).)

19 Source Law

20 (c) The council, in coordination with the  
21 interagency coordinating group, shall:

22 (1) make recommendations for improving  
23 contracting relationships between state agencies and  
24 faith- and community-based organizations;

25 (2) develop best practices for cooperating  
26 and collaborating with faith- and community-based  
27 organizations;

28 (3) identify and address duplication of  
29 services provided by the state and faith- and  
30 community-based organizations; and

31 (4) identify and address gaps in state  
32 services that faith- and community-based  
33 organizations could fill.

34 Revised Law

35 Sec. 550.0059. TEXAS NONPROFIT COUNCIL BIENNIAL REPORT.

36 (a) The council shall prepare a biennial report detailing the  
37 council's work. The report must include any recommendations  
38 relating to legislation necessary to address an issue identified  
39 under Section 550.0058.

40 (b) Not later than December 1 of each even-numbered year,

1 the council shall present the report to:

2 (1) the House Committee on Human Services or its  
3 successor;

4 (2) the House Committee on Public Health or its  
5 successor; and

6 (3) the Senate Health and Human Services Committee or  
7 its successor. (Gov. Code, Sec. 535.055(d).)

8 Source Law

9 (d) The council shall prepare a biennial report  
10 detailing the council's work, including in the report  
11 any recommendations relating to legislation necessary  
12 to address an issue identified under this section. The  
13 council shall present the report to the House  
14 Committee on Human Services or its successor, the  
15 House Committee on Public Health or its successor, and  
16 the Senate Health and Human Services Committee or its  
17 successor not later than December 1 of each  
18 even-numbered year.

19 Revisor's Note

20 Section 535.055(d), Government Code, refers to  
21 issues identified under "this section," meaning  
22 Section 535.055. The relevant provisions of Section  
23 535.055 are revised in this chapter as Section  
24 550.0058, and the revised law is drafted accordingly.

25 SUBCHAPTER C. RENEWING OUR COMMUNITIES ACCOUNT

26 Revised Law

27 Sec. 550.0101. DEFINITION. In this subchapter, "account"  
28 means the renewing our communities account established under  
29 Section 550.0103. (Gov. Code, Sec. 535.101.)

30 Source Law

31 Sec. 535.101. DEFINITION. In this subchapter,  
32 "account" means the renewing our communities account.

33 Revised Law

34 Sec. 550.0102. PURPOSES OF SUBCHAPTER. Recognizing that  
35 faith- and community-based organizations provide a range of vital  
36 charitable services to persons in this state, the purposes of this  
37 subchapter are to:

38 (1) increase the impact and effectiveness of those  
39 organizations;

1 (2) forge stronger partnerships between those  
2 organizations and state government so that:

3 (A) communities are empowered to serve  
4 individuals in need; and

5 (B) community capacity for providing services is  
6 strengthened; and

7 (3) create a funding mechanism that:

8 (A) builds on the established efforts of those  
9 organizations; and

10 (B) operates to create new partnerships in local  
11 communities for the benefit of this state. (Gov. Code, Sec.  
12 535.102.)

13 Source Law

14 Sec. 535.102. PURPOSES OF SUBCHAPTER.  
15 Recognizing that faith- and community-based  
16 organizations provide a range of vital charitable  
17 services to persons in this state, the purposes of this  
18 subchapter are to:

19 (1) increase the impact and effectiveness  
20 of those organizations;

21 (2) forge stronger partnerships between  
22 those organizations and state government so that  
23 communities are empowered to serve persons in need and  
24 community capacity for providing services is  
25 strengthened; and

26 (3) create a funding mechanism that builds  
27 on the established efforts of those organizations and  
28 operates to create new partnerships in local  
29 communities for the benefit of this state.

30 Revisor's Note

31 Section 535.102(2), Government Code, refers to  
32 "persons" in need. Throughout this chapter, the  
33 revised law substitutes "individual" for "person" for  
34 clarity and consistency where the context makes clear  
35 that the referenced person is a natural person and not  
36 an entity described by the definition of "person"  
37 provided by Section 311.005(2), Government Code (Code  
38 Construction Act), which applies to this code.

39 Revised Law

40 Sec. 550.0103. RENEWING OUR COMMUNITIES ACCOUNT. (a) The  
41 renewing our communities account is an account in the general

1 revenue fund that may be appropriated only to the commission for:

2 (1) the purposes and activities authorized by this  
3 subchapter; and

4 (2) reasonable administrative expenses under this  
5 subchapter.

6 (b) The purposes of the account are to:

7 (1) increase the capacity of faith- and  
8 community-based organizations to provide charitable services and  
9 to manage human resources and money;

10 (2) assist local governmental entities in  
11 establishing local offices to promote faith- and community-based  
12 initiatives; and

13 (3) foster better partnerships between state  
14 government and faith- and community-based organizations.

15 (c) The account consists of:

16 (1) all money appropriated for the purposes of this  
17 subchapter; and

18 (2) any gifts, grants, or donations received for the  
19 purposes of this subchapter.

20 (d) The account is exempt from the application of Section  
21 403.095. (Gov. Code, Sec. 535.103.)

22 Source Law

23 Sec. 535.103. RENEWING OUR COMMUNITIES ACCOUNT.

24 (a) The renewing our communities account is an account  
25 in the general revenue fund that may be appropriated  
26 only to the commission for the purposes and activities  
27 authorized by this subchapter and for reasonable  
28 administrative expenses under this subchapter.

29 (b) The account consists of:

30 (1) all money appropriated for the  
31 purposes of this subchapter; and

32 (2) any gifts, grants, or donations  
33 received for the purposes of this subchapter.

34 (c) The account is exempt from the application  
35 of Section 403.095.

36 (d) The purposes of the account are to:

37 (1) increase the capacity of faith- and  
38 community-based organizations to provide charitable  
39 services and to manage human resources and funds;

40 (2) assist local governmental entities in  
41 establishing local offices to promote faith- and  
42 community-based initiatives; and

43 (3) foster better partnerships between  
44 state government and faith- and community-based  
45 organizations.

1 Revisor's Note

2 Section 535.103(d), Government Code, refers to  
3 managing human resources and "funds." Throughout this  
4 chapter, the revised law substitutes "money" for  
5 "funds" because, in context, the meaning is the same  
6 and "money" is the more commonly used term.

7 Revised Law

8 Sec. 550.0104. COMMISSION POWERS AND DUTIES REGARDING  
9 ACCOUNT. (a) The commission shall:

10 (1) contract with the State Commission on National and  
11 Community Service to administer money appropriated from the account  
12 in a manner that:

13 (A) consolidates the capacity of and strengthens  
14 national service and community and faith- and community-based  
15 initiatives; and

16 (B) leverages public and private money to benefit  
17 this state;

18 (2) develop a competitive process for awarding grants  
19 from money in the account that is consistent with state law and  
20 includes objective selection criteria;

21 (3) oversee the delivery of training and other  
22 assistance activities under this subchapter;

23 (4) develop criteria limiting grant awards under  
24 Section 550.0106(a)(1)(A) to small and medium-sized faith- and  
25 community-based organizations that provide charitable services to  
26 persons in this state;

27 (5) establish general state priorities for the  
28 account;

29 (6) establish and monitor performance and outcome  
30 measures for persons who are awarded grants under this subchapter;  
31 and

32 (7) establish policies and procedures to ensure that  
33 any money appropriated from the account to the commission that is  
34 allocated to build the capacity of a faith-based organization or

1 for a faith-based initiative is not used to advance a sectarian  
2 purpose or to engage in any form of proselytization.

3 (b) The commission may award money in the account  
4 appropriated to the commission to the State Commission on National  
5 and Community Service in the form of a grant instead of contracting  
6 with that entity under Subsection (a)(1). (Gov. Code, Secs.  
7 535.104(a), (b).)

8 Source Law

9 Sec. 535.104. POWERS AND DUTIES REGARDING  
10 ACCOUNT. (a) The commission shall:

11 (1) contract with the State Commission on  
12 National and Community Service to administer funds  
13 appropriated from the account in a manner that:

14 (A) consolidates the capacity of and  
15 strengthens national service and community and faith-  
16 and community-based initiatives; and

17 (B) leverages public and private  
18 funds to benefit this state;

19 (2) develop a competitive process to be  
20 used in awarding grants from account funds that is  
21 consistent with state law and includes objective  
22 selection criteria;

23 (3) oversee the delivery of training and  
24 other assistance activities under this subchapter;

25 (4) develop criteria limiting awards of  
26 grants under Section 535.105(1)(A) to small and  
27 medium-sized faith- and community-based organizations  
28 that provide charitable services to persons in this  
29 state;

30 (5) establish general state priorities for  
31 the account;

32 (6) establish and monitor performance and  
33 outcome measures for persons to whom grants are  
34 awarded under this subchapter; and

35 (7) establish policies and procedures to  
36 ensure that any money appropriated from the account to  
37 the commission that is allocated to build the capacity  
38 of a faith-based organization or for a faith-based  
39 initiative is not used to advance a sectarian purpose  
40 or to engage in any form of proselytization.

41 (b) Instead of contracting with the State  
42 Commission on National and Community Service under  
43 Subsection (a)(1), the commission may award account  
44 funds appropriated to the commission to the State  
45 Commission on National and Community Service in the  
46 form of a grant.

47 Revised Law

48 Sec. 550.0105. ACCEPTABLE USES OF ACCOUNT MONEY. The  
49 commission or the State Commission on National and Community  
50 Service, in accordance with the terms of a contract or grant, as  
51 applicable, may:

52 (1) directly, or through agreements with one or more

1 entities serving faith- and community-based organizations that  
2 provide charitable services to persons in this state:

3 (A) assist the organizations with:

4 (i) writing or managing grants through  
5 workshops or other forms of guidance;

6 (ii) obtaining legal assistance related to  
7 forming a corporation or obtaining an exemption from taxation under  
8 the Internal Revenue Code; and

9 (iii) obtaining information about or  
10 referrals to entities that provide expertise in accounting, legal,  
11 or tax issues, program development matters, or other organizational  
12 topics;

13 (B) provide to the organizations information or  
14 assistance related to building the organizations' capacity for  
15 providing services;

16 (C) facilitate the formation of networks, the  
17 coordination of services, and the sharing of resources among the  
18 organizations;

19 (D) in cooperation with existing efforts, if  
20 possible, conduct needs assessments to identify gaps in services in  
21 a community that present a need for developing or expanding  
22 services;

23 (E) work with the organizations to identify the  
24 organizations' needs for improvements in their internal capacity  
25 for providing services;

26 (F) provide the organizations with information  
27 on and assistance in identifying or using practices with  
28 demonstrated effectiveness for delivering charitable services to  
29 persons, families, and communities and in replicating charitable  
30 services programs that have demonstrated effectiveness; and

31 (G) encourage research into the impact of  
32 organizational capacity on program delivery for the organizations;

33 (2) assist a local governmental entity in creating a  
34 better partnership between government and faith- and

1 community-based organizations to provide charitable services to  
2 persons in this state; and

3 (3) use money appropriated from the account to provide  
4 matching money for federal or private grant programs that further  
5 the purposes of the account as described by Section 550.0103(b).  
6 (Gov. Code, Sec. 535.104(d).)

7 Source Law

8 (d) The commission or the State Commission on  
9 National and Community Service, in accordance with the  
10 terms of the contract or grant, as applicable, may:

11 (1) directly, or through agreements with  
12 one or more entities that serve faith- and  
13 community-based organizations that provide charitable  
14 services to persons in this state:

15 (A) assist faith- and  
16 community-based organizations with:

17 (i) writing or managing grants  
18 through workshops or other forms of guidance;

19 (ii) obtaining legal assistance  
20 related to forming a corporation or obtaining an  
21 exemption from taxation under the Internal Revenue  
22 Code; and

23 (iii) obtaining information  
24 about or referrals to entities that provide expertise  
25 in accounting, legal, or tax issues, program  
26 development matters, or other organizational topics;

27 (B) provide information or  
28 assistance to faith- and community-based  
29 organizations related to building the organizations'  
30 capacity for providing services;

31 (C) facilitate the formation of  
32 networks, the coordination of services, and the  
33 sharing of resources among faith- and community-based  
34 organizations;

35 (D) in cooperation with existing  
36 efforts, if possible, conduct needs assessments to  
37 identify gaps in services in a community that present a  
38 need for developing or expanding services;

39 (E) work with faith- and  
40 community-based organizations to identify the  
41 organizations' needs for improvements in their  
42 internal capacity for providing services;

43 (F) provide faith- and  
44 community-based organizations with information on and  
45 assistance in identifying or using practices with  
46 demonstrated effectiveness for delivering charitable  
47 services to persons, families, and communities and in  
48 replicating charitable services programs that have  
49 demonstrated effectiveness; and

50 (G) encourage research into the  
51 impact of organizational capacity on program delivery  
52 for faith- and community-based organizations;

53 (2) assist a local governmental entity in  
54 creating a better partnership between government and  
55 faith- and community-based organizations to provide  
56 charitable services to persons in this state; and

57 (3) use funds appropriated from the  
58 account to provide matching money for federal or  
59 private grant programs that further the purposes of  
60 the account as described by Section 535.103(d).

1 Revised Law

2 Sec. 550.0106. ADMINISTRATION OF ACCOUNT MONEY. (a) If  
3 under Section 550.0104 the commission contracts with or awards a  
4 grant to the State Commission on National and Community Service,  
5 that entity:

6 (1) may award grants from money appropriated from the  
7 account to:

8 (A) faith- and community-based organizations  
9 that provide charitable services to persons in this state for  
10 capacity-building purposes; and

11 (B) local governmental entities to provide seed  
12 money for local offices for faith- and community-based initiatives;  
13 and

14 (2) shall monitor performance and outcome measures for  
15 persons to whom that entity awards grants using the measures the  
16 commission establishes under Section 550.0104(a)(6).

17 (b) Any money awarded to the State Commission on National  
18 and Community Service under a contract or through a grant under  
19 Section 550.0104 must be administered in the manner required by  
20 this subchapter. (Gov. Code, Secs. 535.104(c), 535.105.)

21 Source Law

22 [Sec. 535.104]

23 (c) Any funds awarded to the State Commission on  
24 National and Community Service under a contract or  
25 through a grant under this section must be  
26 administered in the manner required by this  
27 subchapter, including Subsection (a)(1).

28 Sec. 535.105. ADMINISTRATION OF ACCOUNT FUNDS.  
29 If under Section 535.104 the commission contracts with  
30 or awards a grant to the State Commission on National  
31 and Community Service, that entity:

32 (1) may award grants from funds  
33 appropriated from the account to:

34 (A) faith- and community-based  
35 organizations that provide charitable services to  
36 persons in this state for capacity-building purposes;  
37 and

38 (B) local governmental entities to  
39 provide seed money for local offices for faith- and  
40 community-based initiatives; and

41 (2) shall monitor performance and outcome  
42 measures for persons to whom that entity awards grants  
43 using the measures established by the commission under  
44 Section 535.104(a)(6).

1 Revisor's Note

2 (1) Section 535.104(c), Government Code, refers  
3 to funds awarded "under this section," meaning Section  
4 535.104. The relevant provisions of Section 535.104  
5 are revised in this chapter as Section 550.0104, and  
6 the revised law is drafted accordingly.

7 (2) Section 535.104(c), Government Code, refers  
8 to grant administration in the manner required by  
9 "this subchapter, including Subsection (a)(1)." The  
10 revised law omits the reference to Subsection (a)(1)  
11 as redundant because that subsection applies by its  
12 own terms.

13 Revised Law

14 Sec. 550.0107. ACCOUNT MONITORING. The commission shall  
15 monitor the use of the money administered by the State Commission on  
16 National and Community Service under a contract or through a grant  
17 under Section 550.0104 to ensure that the money is used in a manner  
18 consistent with the requirements of this subchapter. (Gov. Code,  
19 Sec. 535.104(e) (part).)

20 Source Law

21 (e) The commission shall monitor the use of the  
22 funds administered by the State Commission on National  
23 and Community Service under a contract or through a  
24 grant under this section to ensure that the funds are  
25 used in a manner consistent with the requirements of  
26 this subchapter. . . .

27 Revisor's Note

28 Section 535.104(e), Government Code, refers to  
29 "this section," meaning Section 535.104, Government  
30 Code. The relevant provisions of Section 535.104 are  
31 revised in this chapter as Section 550.0104, and the  
32 revised law is drafted accordingly.

33 Revised Law

34 Sec. 550.0108. PUBLIC INFORMATION; INTERNET POSTING  
35 REQUIREMENT. (a) Records relating to the award of a contract or  
36 grant to the State Commission on National and Community Service, or

1 to grants that entity awards, and records relating to other uses of  
2 the awarded money are public information subject to Chapter 552.

3 (b) If the commission contracts with or awards a grant to the  
4 State Commission on National and Community Service under Section  
5 550.0104, the commission shall provide a link on the commission's  
6 Internet website to that entity's Internet website. The entity's  
7 Internet website must provide:

8 (1) a list of the names of each person to whom the  
9 entity awards a grant from money appropriated from the account and  
10 the amount and purpose of the grant; and

11 (2) information regarding the methods by which the  
12 public may request information about those grants. (Gov. Code,  
13 Secs. 535.104(e) (part), 535.106(a).)

14 Source Law

15 [Sec. 535.104]

16 (e) . . . Records relating to the award of a  
17 contract or grant to the State Commission on National  
18 and Community Service, or to grants awarded by that  
19 entity, and records relating to other uses of the funds  
20 are public information subject to Chapter 552.

21 Sec. 535.106. REPORTS AND PUBLIC INFORMATION.

22 (a) The commission shall provide a link on the  
23 commission's Internet website to the Internet website  
24 of the State Commission on National and Community  
25 Service if the commission contracts with or awards a  
26 grant to that entity under Section 535.104. The  
27 entity's Internet website must provide:

28 (1) a list of the names of each person to  
29 whom the entity awarded a grant from money  
30 appropriated from the account and the amount and  
31 purpose of the grant; and

32 (2) information regarding the methods by  
33 which the public may request information about those  
34 grants.

35 Revised Law

36 Sec. 550.0109. REPORTS. (a) If the State Commission on  
37 National and Community Service is awarded a contract or grant under  
38 Section 550.0104, that entity must provide to the commission  
39 periodic reports on a schedule the executive commissioner  
40 determines. The schedule of periodic reports must include an  
41 annual report that provides:

42 (1) a specific accounting of that entity's use of money  
43 appropriated from the account, including the names of persons to

1 whom grants have been awarded and the purposes of those grants; and  
2 (2) a summary of the efforts of the faith- and  
3 community-based liaisons designated under Section 550.0052 to  
4 comply with the duties imposed by and the purposes of Sections  
5 550.0053 and 550.0055.

6 (b) The commission shall:

7 (1) post the annual report submitted under this  
8 section on the commission's Internet website; and

9 (2) provide copies of the report to the governor, the  
10 lieutenant governor, and the members of the legislature. (Gov.  
11 Code, Secs. 535.106(b), (c).)

12 Source Law

13 (b) If awarded a contract or grant under Section  
14 535.104, the State Commission on National and  
15 Community Service must provide to the commission  
16 periodic reports on a schedule determined by the  
17 executive commissioner. The schedule of periodic  
18 reports must include an annual report that includes:

19 (1) a specific accounting with respect to  
20 the use by that entity of money appropriated from the  
21 account, including the names of persons to whom grants  
22 have been awarded and the purposes of those grants; and

23 (2) a summary of the efforts of the faith-  
24 and community-based liaisons designated under Section  
25 535.051 to comply with the duties imposed by and the  
26 purposes of Sections 535.052 and 535.053.

27 (c) The commission shall post the annual report  
28 made under Subsection (b) on the commission's Internet  
29 website and shall provide copies of the report to the  
30 governor, the lieutenant governor, and the members of  
31 the legislature.

32 Revisor's Note

33 Section 535.106(b), Government Code, refers to  
34 duties imposed by and the purposes of "Sections  
35 535.052 and 535.053." The relevant provisions of  
36 Sections 535.052 and 535.053, Government Code, are  
37 revised in this chapter as Sections 550.0053 and  
38 550.0055, and the revised law is drafted accordingly.

39 Revised Law

40 Sec. 550.0110. CONSTRUCTION OF SUBCHAPTER. If the  
41 commission contracts with or awards a grant to the State Commission  
42 on National and Community Service under Section 550.0104, this  
43 subchapter may not be construed to:

1 (1) release that entity from any regulations or  
2 reporting or other requirements applicable to a commission  
3 contractor or grantee;

4 (2) impose regulations or reporting or other  
5 requirements on that entity that do not apply to other commission  
6 contractors or grantees solely because of the entity's status;

7 (3) alter the nonprofit status of that entity or the  
8 requirements for maintaining that status; or

9 (4) convert that entity into a governmental entity  
10 because of the receipt of account money through the contract or  
11 grant. (Gov. Code, Sec. 535.104(f).)

12 Source Law

13 (f) If the commission contracts with or awards a  
14 grant to the State Commission on National and  
15 Community Service under this section, this subchapter  
16 may not be construed to:

17 (1) release that entity from any  
18 regulations or reporting or other requirements  
19 applicable to a contractor or grantee of the  
20 commission;

21 (2) impose regulations or reporting or  
22 other requirements on that entity that do not apply to  
23 other contractors or grantees of the commission solely  
24 because of the entity's status;

25 (3) alter the nonprofit status of that  
26 entity or the requirements for maintaining that  
27 status; or

28 (4) convert that entity into a  
29 governmental entity because of the receipt of account  
30 funds through the contract or grant.

31 SUBCHAPTER D. FAITH- AND COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATION SUPPLEMENTAL  
32 ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS RECEIVING PUBLIC  
33 ASSISTANCE

34 Revised Law

35 Sec. 550.0151. PROGRAM ESTABLISHMENT. (a) The commission  
36 shall:

37 (1) establish a program under which faith- and  
38 community-based organizations may, on an applicant's request,  
39 contact and offer supplemental assistance to the applicant for  
40 benefits under:

41 (A) the financial assistance program under  
42 Chapter 31, Human Resources Code;

1 (B) the medical assistance program under Chapter  
2 32, Human Resources Code;

3 (C) the supplemental nutrition assistance  
4 program under Chapter 33, Human Resources Code; or

5 (D) the child health plan program under Chapter  
6 62, Health and Safety Code; and

7 (2) develop a procedure under which faith- and  
8 community-based organizations may apply to participate in the  
9 program.

10 (b) At the time an individual applies for benefits described  
11 by Subsection (a), the individual must be:

12 (1) informed about and given the opportunity to enroll  
13 in the program; and

14 (2) informed that enrolling in the program will not  
15 affect the individual's eligibility for benefits. (Gov. Code,  
16 Secs. 531.02482(b), (c), (d).)

17 Source Law

18 (b) The commission shall establish a program  
19 under which faith- and community-based organizations  
20 may, on the request of the applicant, contact and offer  
21 supplemental assistance to an applicant for benefits  
22 under:

23 (1) the financial assistance program under  
24 Chapter 31, Human Resources Code;

25 (2) the medical assistance program under  
26 Chapter 32, Human Resources Code;

27 (3) the supplemental nutrition assistance  
28 program under Chapter 33, Human Resources Code; or

29 (4) the child health plan program under  
30 Chapter 62, Health and Safety Code.

31 (c) At the time of application for benefits  
32 described by Subsection (b), an applicant must:

33 (1) be informed about and given the  
34 opportunity to enroll in the program; and

35 (2) be informed that enrolling in the  
36 program will not affect the person's eligibility for  
37 benefits.

38 (d) The commission shall develop a procedure  
39 under which faith- and community-based organizations  
40 may apply to participate in the program.

41 Revised Law

42 Sec. 550.0152. RULES. The executive commissioner shall  
43 adopt rules to implement the program, including rules that:

44 (1) describe:

45 (A) the types of faith- and community-based

1 organizations that may apply to participate in the program; and

2 (B) the qualifications and standards of service  
3 required of a participating organization;

4 (2) facilitate contact between an individual who  
5 enrolls in the program and a participating organization that  
6 provides supplemental services that may assist the individual;

7 (3) establish:

8 (A) processes for suspending, revoking, and  
9 periodically renewing an organization's participation in the  
10 program, as appropriate; and

11 (B) methods to ensure the confidentiality and  
12 appropriate use of applicant information shared with a  
13 participating organization; and

14 (4) permit an individual to terminate the individual's  
15 enrollment in the program. (Gov. Code, Sec. 531.02482(e).)

16 Source Law

17 (e) The executive commissioner shall adopt  
18 rules to implement the program established under this  
19 section, including rules that:

20 (1) describe the types of faith- and  
21 community-based organizations that may apply to  
22 participate in the program and the qualifications and  
23 standards of service required of a participating  
24 organization;

25 (2) facilitate contact between a person  
26 who enrolls in the program and a faith- and  
27 community-based organization participating in the  
28 program that provides supplemental services that may  
29 be of assistance to the person;

30 (3) establish processes for the  
31 suspension, revocation, and periodic renewal of an  
32 organization's participation in the program, as  
33 appropriate;

34 (4) establish methods to ensure the  
35 confidentiality and appropriate use of applicant  
36 information shared with a participating organization;  
37 and

38 (5) permit a person enrolled in the  
39 program to terminate the person's enrollment in the  
40 program.

41 Revisor's Note  
42 (End of Subchapter)

43 Section 531.02482(a), Government Code, defines  
44 "community-based organization" and "faith-based  
45 organization." The revised law omits the definitions  
46 because they duplicate the chapter-wide definitions

1 for those terms in Sections 535.001(2) and (4),  
2 Government Code, revised in this chapter as Sections  
3 550.0001(2) and (4), which are applicable to the  
4 revised law. The omitted law reads:

5 Sec. 531.02482. FAITH- AND  
6 COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATION SUPPORT FOR  
7 CERTAIN PERSONS RECEIVING PUBLIC  
8 ASSISTANCE. (a) In this section,  
9 "community-based organization" and  
10 "faith-based organization" have the  
11 meanings assigned by Section 535.001.

12 SUBCHAPTER D-1. PILOT PROGRAM FOR SELF-SUFFICIENCY OF CERTAIN  
13 INDIVIDUALS RECEIVING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE OR SUPPLEMENTAL  
14 NUTRITION ASSISTANCE BENEFITS

15 Revised Law

16 Sec. 550.0201. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

17 (1) "Financial assistance benefits" means money  
18 payments under:

19 (A) the federal Temporary Assistance for Needy  
20 Families program operated under Chapter 31, Human Resources Code;  
21 or

22 (B) the state temporary assistance and support  
23 services program operated under Chapter 34, Human Resources Code.

24 (2) "Pilot program" means the pilot program for  
25 self-sufficiency of certain individuals receiving financial  
26 assistance or supplemental nutrition assistance benefits developed  
27 and implemented under this subchapter.

28 (3) "Self-sufficiency" means:

29 (A) being employed in a position that pays a  
30 sufficient wage;

31 (B) having financial savings in an amount equal  
32 to at least \$1,000 per member of a family's household; and

33 (C) maintaining a debt-to-income ratio that does  
34 not exceed 43 percent.

35 (4) "Slow reduction scale" means a graduated plan for  
36 reducing financial assistance or supplemental nutrition assistance  
37 benefits that correlates with a phase of the pilot program's

1 progressive stages toward self-sufficiency.

2 (5) "Sufficient wage" means an amount of money  
3 sufficient to meet a family's minimum necessary spending on basic  
4 needs, including food, child care, health insurance, housing, and  
5 transportation, as determined by a market-based calculation that  
6 uses geographically specific expenditure data.

7 (6) "Supplemental nutrition assistance benefits"  
8 means money payments under the supplemental nutrition assistance  
9 program operated under Chapter 33, Human Resources Code. (Gov.  
10 Code, Sec. 531.02241(a); New.)

11 Source Law

12 Sec. 531.02241. PILOT PROGRAM FOR  
13 SELF-SUFFICIENCY OF CERTAIN PERSONS RECEIVING  
14 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE OR SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION  
15 ASSISTANCE BENEFITS. (a) In this section:

16 (1) "Financial assistance benefits" means  
17 money payments under the federal Temporary Assistance  
18 for Needy Families program operated under Chapter 31,  
19 Human Resources Code, or under the state temporary  
20 assistance and support services program operated under  
21 Chapter 34, Human Resources Code.

22 (2) "Self-sufficiency" means being  
23 employed in a position that pays a sufficient wage,  
24 having financial savings in an amount that is equal to  
25 at least \$1,000 per member of a family's household, and  
26 maintaining a debt-to-income ratio that does not  
27 exceed 43 percent.

28 (3) "Slow reduction scale" means a  
29 graduated plan for reducing financial assistance or  
30 supplemental nutrition assistance benefits that  
31 correlates with a phase of the pilot program's  
32 progressive stages toward self-sufficiency.

33 (4) "Sufficient wage" means an amount of  
34 money, determined by a market-based calculation that  
35 uses geographically specific expenditure data, that is  
36 sufficient to meet a family's minimum necessary  
37 spending on basic needs, including food, child care,  
38 health insurance, housing, and transportation.

39 (5) "Supplemental nutrition assistance  
40 benefits" means money payments under the supplemental  
41 nutrition assistance program operated under Chapter  
42 33, Human Resources Code.

43 Revisor's Note

44 The definition of "pilot program" is added to the  
45 revised law for drafting convenience and to eliminate  
46 frequent, unnecessary repetition of the substance of  
47 the definition.

48 Revised Law

49 Sec. 550.0202. PILOT PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT AND

1 IMPLEMENTATION. (a) The commission shall develop and implement a  
2 pilot program to assist not more than 500 eligible families in  
3 gaining permanent self-sufficiency and by eliminating the need for  
4 financial assistance, supplemental nutrition assistance, or other  
5 means-tested public benefits, notwithstanding the limitations and  
6 requirements of Section 31.043, Human Resources Code.

7 (b) If the commission determines the number of families  
8 participating in the pilot program during a year reaches capacity  
9 for that year, the number of families that may be served under the  
10 program in the following year may be increased by 20 percent.

11 (c) The commission shall develop and implement the pilot  
12 program with the assistance of:

13 (1) faith-based and other relevant public or private  
14 organizations;

15 (2) local workforce development boards;

16 (3) the Texas Workforce Commission; and

17 (4) any other person the commission determines  
18 appropriate.

19 (d) The pilot program must operate for at least 24 months.  
20 The program must also include 16 additional months for:

21 (1) planning and designing the program before the  
22 program begins operation;

23 (2) recruiting eligible families to participate in the  
24 program;

25 (3) randomly placing each participating family in one  
26 of at least three research groups, including:

27 (A) a control group;

28 (B) a group consisting of families for whom the  
29 application of income, asset, and time limits described by Section  
30 550.0204 is waived; and

31 (C) a group consisting of families for whom the  
32 application of income, asset, and time limits described by Section  
33 550.0204 is waived and who receive wraparound case management  
34 services under the program; and

1 (4) after the program begins operation, collecting and  
2 sharing data that allows for:

3 (A) obtaining participating families'  
4 eligibility and identification data before a family is randomly  
5 placed in a research group under Subdivision (3);

6 (B) conducting surveys or interviews of  
7 participating families to obtain information that is not contained  
8 in records related to a family's eligibility for financial  
9 assistance, supplemental nutrition assistance, or other  
10 means-tested public benefits;

11 (C) providing quarterly reports for not more than  
12 60 months after a participating family's enrollment in the program  
13 regarding the program's effect on the family's labor market  
14 participation, income, and need for means-tested public benefits;

15 (D) assessing the interaction of the program's  
16 components with the desired outcomes of the program using data  
17 collected during the program and data obtained from state agencies  
18 concerning means-tested public benefits; and

19 (E) enlisting a third party to conduct a rigorous  
20 experimental impact evaluation of the program.

21 (e) The pilot program must provide through a  
22 community-based provider to each participating family placed in the  
23 research group described by Subsection (d)(3)(C) holistic,  
24 wraparound case management services that meet all applicable  
25 program requirements under 7 C.F.R. Section 273.7(e) or 45 C.F.R.  
26 Section 261.10, as applicable. Case management services provided  
27 under this subsection must include the strategic use of financial  
28 assistance and supplemental nutrition assistance benefits to  
29 ensure that the goals included in the family's service plan are  
30 achieved. (Gov. Code, Secs. 531.02241(b), (i), (j), (k).)

31 Source Law

32 (b) The commission shall develop and implement a  
33 pilot program for assisting not more than 500 eligible  
34 families to gain permanent self-sufficiency and no  
35 longer require financial assistance, supplemental  
36 nutrition assistance, or other means-tested public

1 benefits, notwithstanding the limitations and  
2 requirements of Section 31.043, Human Resources Code.  
3 If the number of families participating in the program  
4 during a year reaches capacity for that year as  
5 determined by the commission, the number of families  
6 that may be served under the program in the following  
7 year may be increased by 20 percent.

8 (i) The pilot program must provide each  
9 participating family placed in the research group  
10 described by Subsection (j)(3)(C) with holistic,  
11 wraparound case management services that meet all  
12 applicable program requirements under 7 C.F.R. Section  
13 273.7(e) or 45 C.F.R. Section 261.10, as applicable.  
14 Case management services provided under this  
15 subsection must include the strategic use of financial  
16 assistance and supplemental nutrition assistance  
17 benefits to ensure that the goals included in the  
18 family's service plan are achieved. The wraparound  
19 case management services must be provided through a  
20 community-based provider.

21 (j) The pilot program must operate for at least  
22 24 months. The program shall also include 16  
23 additional months for:

24 (1) planning and designing the program  
25 before the program begins operation;

26 (2) recruiting eligible families to  
27 participate in the program;

28 (3) randomly placing each participating  
29 family in one of at least three research groups,  
30 including:

31 (A) a control group;

32 (B) a group consisting of families  
33 for whom the application of income, asset, and time  
34 limits described by Subsection (c) is waived; and

35 (C) a group consisting of families  
36 for whom the application of income, asset, and time  
37 limits described by Subsection (c) is waived and who  
38 receive wraparound case management services under the  
39 program; and

40 (4) after the program begins operation,  
41 collecting and sharing data that allows for:

42 (A) obtaining participating  
43 families' eligibility and identification data before a  
44 family is randomly placed in a research group under  
45 Subdivision (3);

46 (B) conducting surveys or interviews  
47 of participating families to obtain information that  
48 is not contained in records related to a family's  
49 eligibility for financial assistance, supplemental  
50 nutrition assistance, or other means-tested public  
51 benefits;

52 (C) providing quarterly reports for  
53 not more than 60 months after a participating family is  
54 enrolled in the pilot program regarding the program's  
55 effect on the family's labor market participation and  
56 income and need for means-tested public benefits;

57 (D) assessing the interaction of the  
58 program's components with the desired outcomes of the  
59 program using data collected during the program and  
60 data obtained from state agencies concerning  
61 means-tested public benefits; and

62 (E) a third party to conduct a  
63 rigorous experimental impact evaluation of the pilot  
64 program.

65 (k) The commission shall develop and implement  
66 the pilot program with the assistance of the Texas  
67 Workforce Commission, local workforce development

1 boards, faith-based and other relevant public or  
2 private organizations, and any other entity or person  
3 the commission determines appropriate.

4 Revisor's Note

5 Section 531.02241(k), Government Code, refers to  
6 "any other entity or person." The revised law omits  
7 "entity" as redundant because Section 311.005(2),  
8 Government Code (Code Construction Act), which applies  
9 to this code, defines "person" to include any legal  
10 entity.

11 Revised Law

12 Sec. 550.0203. PILOT PROGRAM DESIGN. (a) The commission  
13 shall design the pilot program to allow social services providers,  
14 public benefit offices, and other community partners to refer  
15 potential participating families to the program.

16 (b) The commission shall design the pilot program to assist  
17 eligible participating families in attaining self-sufficiency by:

18 (1) identifying eligibility requirements for the  
19 continuation of financial assistance or supplemental nutrition  
20 assistance benefits and time limits for the benefits, the  
21 application of which may be waived for a limited period and that, if  
22 applied, would impede self-sufficiency;

23 (2) implementing strategies, including waiving the  
24 application of the eligibility requirements and time limits  
25 identified in Subdivision (1), to remove barriers to  
26 self-sufficiency; and

27 (3) moving eligible participating families toward  
28 self-sufficiency through progressive stages that include the  
29 following phases:

30 (A) an initial phase in which a family  
31 transitions out of an emergent crisis by securing housing, medical  
32 care, and financial assistance and supplemental nutrition  
33 assistance benefits, as necessary;

34 (B) a second phase in which:

35 (i) the family transitions toward stability

1 by securing employment and any necessary child care and by  
2 participating in services that build the financial management  
3 skills necessary to meet financial goals; and

4 (ii) the family's financial assistance and  
5 supplemental nutrition assistance benefits are reduced according  
6 to the following scale:

7 (a) on reaching 25 percent of the  
8 family's sufficient wage, the amount of benefits is reduced by 10  
9 percent;

10 (b) on reaching 50 percent of the  
11 family's sufficient wage, the amount of benefits is reduced by 25  
12 percent; and

13 (c) on reaching 75 percent of the  
14 family's sufficient wage, the amount of benefits is reduced by 50  
15 percent;

16 (C) a third phase in which the family:

17 (i) transitions to self-sufficiency by  
18 securing employment that pays a sufficient wage, reducing debt, and  
19 building savings; and

20 (ii) becomes ineligible for financial  
21 assistance and supplemental nutrition assistance benefits on  
22 reaching 100 percent of the family's sufficient wage; and

23 (D) a final phase in which the family attains  
24 self-sufficiency by retaining employment that pays a sufficient  
25 wage, amassing at least \$1,000 per member of the family's  
26 household, and having manageable debt so that the family will no  
27 longer be dependent on financial assistance, supplemental  
28 nutrition assistance, or other means-tested public benefits for at  
29 least six months following the date the family stops participating  
30 in the program. (Gov. Code, Secs. 531.02241(d), (f).)

31 Source Law

32 (d) The pilot program must be designed to allow  
33 social services providers, public benefit offices, and  
34 other community partners to refer potential  
35 participating families to the program.

1 (f) The pilot program must be designed to assist  
2 eligible participating families in attaining  
3 self-sufficiency by:

4 (1) identifying eligibility requirements  
5 for the continuation of financial assistance or  
6 supplemental nutrition assistance benefits and time  
7 limits for the benefits, the application of which may  
8 be waived for a limited period and that, if applied,  
9 would impede self-sufficiency;

10 (2) implementing strategies, including  
11 waiving the application of the eligibility  
12 requirements and time limits identified in Subdivision  
13 (1), to remove barriers to self-sufficiency; and

14 (3) moving eligible participating  
15 families through progressive stages toward  
16 self-sufficiency that include the following phases:

17 (A) an initial phase in which a  
18 family moves out of an emergent crisis by securing  
19 housing, medical care, and financial assistance and  
20 supplemental nutrition assistance benefits, as  
21 necessary;

22 (B) a second phase in which:

23 (i) the family moves toward  
24 stability by securing employment and, if necessary,  
25 child care and by participating in services that build  
26 the financial management skills necessary to meet  
27 financial goals; and

28 (ii) the family's financial  
29 assistance and supplemental nutrition assistance  
30 benefits are reduced according to the following scale:

31 (a) on reaching 25 percent  
32 of the family's sufficient wage, the amount of benefits  
33 is reduced by 10 percent;

34 (b) on reaching 50 percent  
35 of the family's sufficient wage, the amount of benefits  
36 is reduced by 25 percent; and

37 (c) on reaching 75 percent  
38 of the family's sufficient wage, the amount of benefits  
39 is reduced by 50 percent;

40 (C) a third phase in which the  
41 family:

42 (i) transitions to  
43 self-sufficiency by securing employment that pays a  
44 sufficient wage, reducing debt, and building savings;  
45 and

46 (ii) becomes ineligible for  
47 financial assistance and supplemental nutrition  
48 assistance benefits on reaching 100 percent of the  
49 family's sufficient wage; and

50 (D) a final phase in which the family  
51 attains self-sufficiency by retaining employment that  
52 pays a sufficient wage, amassing at least \$1,000 per  
53 member of the family's household, and having  
54 manageable debt so that the family will no longer be  
55 dependent on financial assistance, supplemental  
56 nutrition assistance, or other means-tested public  
57 benefits for at least six months following the date the  
58 family stops participating in the program.

59 Revised Law

60 Sec. 550.0204. BENEFIT ELIGIBILITY FOR PILOT PROGRAM  
61 PARTICIPANTS. (a) To allow for continuation of financial  
62 assistance and supplemental nutrition assistance benefits and  
63 reduction of the benefits using a slow reduction scale, the pilot

1 program will test extending the benefits for at least 24 months but  
2 not more than 60 months by waiving:

3 (1) the application of income and asset limit  
4 eligibility requirements for financial assistance and supplemental  
5 nutrition assistance benefits; and

6 (2) the time limits specified by Section 31.0065,  
7 Human Resources Code, for financial assistance benefits.

8 (b) The commission shall freeze a participating family's  
9 eligibility status for financial assistance and supplemental  
10 nutrition assistance benefits beginning on the date the  
11 participating family enters the pilot program and ending on the  
12 date the family ceases participating in the program.

13 (c) The waiver of the application of any asset limit  
14 requirement under this section must allow the participating family  
15 to have assets in an amount equal to at least \$1,000 per member of  
16 the family's household. (Gov. Code, Sec. 531.02241(c).)

17 Source Law

18 (c) The pilot program will test extending, for  
19 at least 24 months but not more than 60 months,  
20 financial assistance and supplemental nutrition  
21 assistance benefits by waiving the application of  
22 income and asset limit eligibility requirements for  
23 those benefits and the time limits under Section  
24 31.0065, Human Resources Code, for financial  
25 assistance benefits to allow for continuation of  
26 financial assistance and supplemental nutrition  
27 assistance benefits and reduction of the benefits  
28 using a slow reduction scale. The commission shall  
29 freeze a participating family's eligibility status for  
30 the benefits beginning on the date the participating  
31 family enters the pilot program and ending on the date  
32 the family ceases participating in the program. The  
33 waiver of the application of any asset limit  
34 requirement must allow the family to have assets in an  
35 amount that is at least \$1,000 per member of the  
36 family's household.

37 Revised Law

38 Sec. 550.0205. FAMILY ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS. A family  
39 is eligible to participate in the pilot program if the family:

40 (1) includes one or more members who are recipients of  
41 financial assistance or supplemental nutrition assistance  
42 benefits, at least one of whom is:

43 (A) at least 18 years of age but not older than 62

1 years of age; and

2 (B) willing, physically able, and legally able to  
3 be employed; and

4 (2) has a total household income that is less than a  
5 sufficient wage based on the family's makeup and geographical area  
6 of residence. (Gov. Code, Sec. 531.02241(e).)

7 Source Law

8 (e) A family is eligible to participate in the  
9 pilot program established under this section if the  
10 family:

11 (1) includes one or more members who are  
12 recipients of financial assistance or supplemental  
13 nutrition assistance benefits, at least one of whom  
14 is:

15 (A) at least 18 but not more than 62  
16 years of age; and

17 (B) willing, and physically and  
18 legally able, to be employed; and

19 (2) has a total household income that is  
20 less than a sufficient wage based on the family's  
21 makeup and geographical area of residence.

22 Revisor's Note

23 Section 531.02241(e), Government Code, refers to  
24 the pilot program "established under this section,"  
25 meaning Section 531.02241, Government Code, which is  
26 revised as this subchapter. The revised law omits the  
27 quoted language as unnecessary. Section 550.0201 of  
28 this chapter defines "pilot program" and that  
29 definition applies by its own terms.

30 Revised Law

31 Sec. 550.0206. CASE MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS. (a) An  
32 individual from a family that wishes to participate in the pilot  
33 program must attend an in-person intake meeting with a program case  
34 manager. During the intake meeting the case manager shall:

35 (1) determine whether:

36 (A) the individual's family meets the  
37 eligibility requirements under Section 550.0205; and

38 (B) the application of income or asset limit  
39 eligibility requirements for continuation of financial assistance  
40 and supplemental nutrition assistance benefits and the time limits

1 specified by Section 31.0065, Human Resources Code, for financial  
2 assistance benefits may be waived under the program;

3 (2) review the family's demographic information and  
4 household financial budget;

5 (3) assess the family members' current financial and  
6 career situations;

7 (4) collaborate with the individual to develop and  
8 implement strategies for removing barriers to the family attaining  
9 self-sufficiency, including waiving the application of income and  
10 asset limit eligibility requirements and time limits described by  
11 Subdivision (1)(B) to allow for continuation of financial  
12 assistance and supplemental nutrition assistance benefits; and

13 (5) if the individual's family is determined eligible  
14 for and chooses to participate in the program, schedule a follow-up  
15 meeting to:

- 16 (A) further assess the family's crisis;
- 17 (B) review available referral services; and
- 18 (C) create a service plan.

19 (b) A participating family must be assigned a program case  
20 manager who shall:

21 (1) if the family is determined eligible, provide the  
22 family with a verification of the waived application of asset,  
23 income, and time limits described by Section 550.0204, allowing the  
24 family to continue receiving financial assistance and supplemental  
25 nutrition assistance benefits on a slow reduction scale;

26 (2) during the initial phase of the program, create  
27 medium- and long-term goals consistent with the strategies  
28 developed under Subsection (a)(4); and

29 (3) assess, at the follow-up meeting scheduled under  
30 Subsection (a)(5), the family's crisis, review available referral  
31 services, and create a service plan. (Gov. Code, Secs.  
32 531.02241(g), (h).)

33 Source Law

34 (g) A person from a family that wishes to

1 participate in the pilot program must attend an  
2 in-person intake meeting with a program case manager.  
3 During the intake meeting the case manager shall:

4 (1) determine whether:

5 (A) the person's family meets the  
6 eligibility requirements under Subsection (e); and

7 (B) the application of income or  
8 asset limit eligibility requirements for continuation  
9 of financial assistance and supplemental nutrition  
10 assistance benefits and the time limits under Section  
11 31.0065, Human Resources Code, for financial  
12 assistance benefits may be waived under the program;

13 (2) review the family's demographic  
14 information and household financial budget;

15 (3) assess the family members' current  
16 financial and career situations;

17 (4) collaborate with the person to develop  
18 and implement strategies for removing barriers to the  
19 family attaining self-sufficiency, including waiving  
20 the application of income and asset limit eligibility  
21 requirements and time limits described by Subdivision  
22 (1)(B) to allow for continuation of financial  
23 assistance and supplemental nutrition assistance  
24 benefits; and

25 (5) if the person's family is determined to  
26 be eligible for and chooses to participate in the  
27 program, schedule a follow-up meeting to further  
28 assess the family's crisis, review available referral  
29 services, and create a service plan.

30 (h) A participating family must be assigned a  
31 program case manager who shall:

32 (1) if the family is determined to be  
33 eligible, provide the family with a verification of  
34 the waived application of asset, income, and time  
35 limits described by Subsection (c), allowing the  
36 family to continue receiving financial assistance and  
37 supplemental nutrition assistance benefits on a slow  
38 reduction scale;

39 (2) assess, at the follow-up meeting  
40 scheduled under Subsection (g)(5), the family's  
41 crisis, review available referral services, and create  
42 a service plan; and

43 (3) during the initial phase of the  
44 program, create medium- and long-term goals consistent  
45 with the strategies developed under Subsection (g)(4).

46 Revised Law

47 Sec. 550.0207. PILOT PROGRAM MONITORING AND EVALUATION.

48 The commission shall monitor and evaluate the pilot program in a  
49 manner that allows for promoting research-informed results of the  
50 program. (Gov. Code, Sec. 531.02241(1).)

51 Source Law

52 (1) The commission shall monitor and evaluate  
53 the pilot program in a manner that allows for promoting  
54 research-informed results of the program.

55 Revised Law

56 Sec. 550.0208. REPORTS. (a) On the conclusion of the pilot  
57 program but not later than 48 months following the date of the last

1 participating family's enrollment in the program, the commission  
2 shall report to the legislature on the results of the program. The  
3 report must include:

4 (1) an evaluation of the program's effect on  
5 participating families in achieving self-sufficiency and  
6 eliminating the need for means-tested public benefits;

7 (2) the impact to this state on the costs of the  
8 financial assistance and supplemental nutrition assistance  
9 programs and of the child-care services program operated by the  
10 Texas Workforce Commission;

11 (3) a cost-benefit analysis of the program; and

12 (4) recommendations on the feasibility and  
13 continuation of the program.

14 (b) During the operation of the pilot program, the  
15 commission shall provide to the legislature additional reports  
16 concerning the program that the commission determines appropriate.  
17 (Gov. Code, Secs. 531.02241(m), (n).)

18 Source Law

19 (m) On the conclusion of the pilot program but  
20 not later than 48 months following the date the last  
21 participating family is enrolled in the program, the  
22 commission shall report to the legislature on the  
23 results of the program. The report must include:

24 (1) an evaluation of the program's effect  
25 on participating families in achieving  
26 self-sufficiency and no longer requiring means-tested  
27 public benefits;

28 (2) the impact to this state on the costs  
29 of the financial assistance and supplemental nutrition  
30 assistance programs and of the child-care services  
31 program operated by the Texas Workforce Commission;

32 (3) a cost-benefit analysis of the  
33 program; and

34 (4) recommendations on the feasibility and  
35 continuation of the program.

36 (n) During the operation of the pilot program,  
37 the commission shall provide to the legislature  
38 additional reports concerning the program that the  
39 commission determines to be appropriate.

40 Revised Law

41 Sec. 550.0209. RULES. The executive commissioner and the  
42 Texas Workforce Commission may adopt rules to implement this  
43 subchapter. (Gov. Code, Sec. 531.02241(o).)



1 Source Law

2 Sec. 531.751. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

3 (2) "Navigator" means a person who is:

4 (A) a volunteer or other  
5 representative of a faith- or community-based  
6 organization; and

7 (B) certified by the commission to  
8 provide or facilitate the provision of information or  
9 assistance through the faith- or community-based  
10 organization to individuals applying or seeking to  
11 apply online through the Texas Integrated Eligibility  
12 Redesign System (TIERS) or any other electronic  
13 eligibility system that is linked to or made a part of  
14 that system for public assistance benefits  
15 administered by the commission.

16 Revisor's Note

17 Section 531.751(1), Government Code, defines  
18 "community-based organization" and "faith-based  
19 organization." The revised law omits the definitions  
20 for the reason stated in the revisor's note at the end  
21 of Subchapter D. The omitted law reads:

22 (1) "Community-based  
23 organization" and "faith-based  
24 organization" have the meanings assigned by  
25 Section 535.001.

26 Revised Law

27 Sec. 550.0252. ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMUNITY-BASED NAVIGATOR  
28 PROGRAM. (a) The commission shall establish a statewide  
29 community-based navigator program if the executive commissioner  
30 determines the program can be established and operated using  
31 existing resources and without disrupting other commission  
32 functions.

33 (b) Under the statewide community-based navigator program,  
34 the commission will train and certify as navigators volunteers and  
35 other representatives of faith- and community-based organizations.  
36 The navigators will assist individuals applying or seeking to apply  
37 online for public assistance benefits through the Texas Integrated  
38 Eligibility Redesign System (TIERS) or any other electronic  
39 eligibility system that is linked to or made a part of that system.

40 (c) In establishing the navigator program, the commission:

41 (1) shall solicit the expertise and assistance of

1 interested persons, including faith- and community-based  
2 organizations; and

3 (2) may establish a work group or other temporary,  
4 informal group of interested persons to provide input and  
5 assistance. (Gov. Code, Sec. 531.752.)

6 Source Law

7 Sec. 531.752. ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMUNITY-BASED  
8 NAVIGATOR PROGRAM. If the executive commissioner  
9 determines that a statewide community-based navigator  
10 program can be established and operated using existing  
11 resources and without disrupting other commission  
12 functions, the commission shall establish a statewide  
13 community-based navigator program through which the  
14 commission will train and certify as navigators  
15 volunteers and other representatives of faith- and  
16 community-based organizations to assist individuals  
17 applying or seeking to apply online for public  
18 assistance benefits through the Texas Integrated  
19 Eligibility Redesign System (TIERS) or any other  
20 electronic eligibility system that is linked to or  
21 made a part of that system. In establishing the  
22 navigator program, the commission shall solicit the  
23 expertise and assistance of interested persons,  
24 including faith- and community-based organizations,  
25 and may establish a work group or other temporary,  
26 informal group of interested persons to provide input  
27 and assistance.

28 Revised Law

29 Sec. 550.0253. PROGRAM STANDARDS. The executive  
30 commissioner shall adopt standards to implement this subchapter,  
31 including standards:

32 (1) subject to Section 550.0254, regarding the  
33 qualifications and training required for navigator certification;

34 (2) regarding the suspension, revocation, and, if  
35 appropriate, periodic renewal of a navigator certificate;

36 (3) to protect the confidentiality of applicant  
37 information handled by navigators; and

38 (4) regarding any other issues the executive  
39 commissioner determines are appropriate. (Gov. Code, Sec.  
40 531.753.)

41 Source Law

42 Sec. 531.753. PROGRAM STANDARDS. The executive  
43 commissioner shall adopt standards to implement this  
44 subchapter, including standards:

45 (1) subject to Section 531.754, regarding  
46 the qualifications and training required for

1 certification as a navigator;  
2 (2) regarding the suspension, revocation,  
3 and, if appropriate, periodic renewal of a navigator  
4 certificate;  
5 (3) to protect the confidentiality of  
6 applicant information handled by navigators; and  
7 (4) regarding any other issues the  
8 executive commissioner determines are appropriate.

9 Revised Law

10 Sec. 550.0254. NAVIGATOR TRAINING PROGRAM. The commission  
11 shall develop and administer a navigator training program that  
12 includes training on:

13 (1) the manner of completing an online application for  
14 public assistance benefits through the Texas Integrated  
15 Eligibility Redesign System (TIERS);

16 (2) the importance of maintaining the confidentiality  
17 of information a navigator handles;

18 (3) the importance of obtaining and submitting  
19 complete and accurate information when completing an application  
20 for public assistance benefits online through the Texas Integrated  
21 Eligibility Redesign System (TIERS);

22 (4) the financial assistance program, the  
23 supplemental nutrition assistance program, Medicaid, the child  
24 health plan program, and any other public assistance benefits  
25 program for which an individual may complete an online application  
26 through the Texas Integrated Eligibility Redesign System (TIERS);  
27 and

28 (5) the method by which an individual may apply for  
29 other public assistance benefits for which the individual may not  
30 complete an online application through the Texas Integrated  
31 Eligibility Redesign System (TIERS). (Gov. Code, Sec. 531.754.)

32 Source Law

33 Sec. 531.754. TRAINING PROGRAM. The commission  
34 shall develop and administer a training program for  
35 navigators. The program must include training on:

36 (1) how to complete an online application  
37 for public assistance benefits through the Texas  
38 Integrated Eligibility Redesign System (TIERS);

39 (2) the importance of maintaining the  
40 confidentiality of information handled by a navigator;

41 (3) the importance of obtaining and  
42 submitting complete and accurate information when  
43 completing an application for public assistance

1 benefits online through the Texas Integrated  
2 Eligibility Redesign System (TIERS);

3 (4) the financial assistance program, the  
4 supplemental nutrition assistance program, Medicaid,  
5 the child health plan program, and any other public  
6 assistance benefits program for which an individual  
7 may complete an online application through the Texas  
8 Integrated Eligibility Redesign System (TIERS); and

9 (5) how an individual may apply for other  
10 public assistance benefits for which an individual may  
11 not complete an online application through the Texas  
12 Integrated Eligibility Redesign System (TIERS).

13 Revised Law

14 Sec. 550.0255. CERTIFIED NAVIGATOR LIST. The commission  
15 shall publish and maintain on the commission's Internet website a  
16 list of certified navigators. (Gov. Code, Sec. 531.755.)

17 Source Law

18 Sec. 531.755. PUBLICATION OF NAVIGATOR LIST.  
19 The commission shall maintain and publish on the  
20 commission's Internet website a list of certified  
21 navigators.